



17th February 2014

The Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters  
House of Representatives  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA, ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

The Australian Electoral System currently fails to reflect voters' wishes. When the candidate with the most primary votes is not elected, the will of voters has been ignored. This defies common-sense and is undemocratic. I believe the following changes would greatly assist in rectifying this as well as simplifying and speeding up the voting process. Please accept my submission for your consideration.

Proposal	Outcome/Comment
<p><b>Optional preferential voting</b> for both houses to allow voting by any of the following means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mark one square to express a single primary preference;</li> <li>• Express a partial distribution of preferences by voting for some but not all candidates;</li> <li>• Express a full distribution of preferences by marking every square</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A vote should go no further than the voter wishes</li> <li>• End backroom preference deals</li> <li>• Simplify and speed up voting</li> <li>• Reduce the number of unintentional informal votes</li> </ul>
<p><b>Voter Identification</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce electoral fraud</li> <li>• Speed up voting by assisting AEC officials to quickly locate names on the roll without the need to ask for names to be repeated or spelt.</li> </ul>
<p>Rethink the <b>layout of Ballot Papers</b> to avoid the donkey vote.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It has been suggested as the ballot papers are printed, the order of parties/candidates be rotated so that each has an equal turn on the left side of the paper.</li> </ul>
<p>Prohibit the registration of <b>new party names</b> which closely resemble and may be confused with established parties.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the incidence of voters unintentionally voting for a candidate/party not of their choice, as occurred in the last Senate election.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Publication of Policies</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It should be mandatory for parties to publish their policies prior to the election as much pre-election advertising contains untruths, half-truths and lies by omission.</li> </ul>

Yours faithfully,  
Margaret Miller